INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internal al Application No PCT/EP2004/007435

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 F16C32/06 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) F16C IPC 7 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages US 3 998 502 A (WALTER LOTHAR ET AL) 1,6 Α 21 December 1976 (1976-12-21) figure 8 column 5, line 27 - line 40 column 6, line 17 - line 26 EP 0 812 995 A (FUERSTLICH 1 Α HOHENZOLLERNSCHE WE) 17 December 1997 (1997-12-17) abstract EP 1 298 335 A (TOYODA MACHINE WORKS LTD) 1 Α 2 April 2003 (2003-04-02) abstract paragraph '0016! - paragraph '0017! figure 5 Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance *E* earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) 'Y' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-*O* document reterring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed '&' document member of the same patent family Date of malling of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 15 November 2004 24/11/2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer Ruropean Palent Office, P.B. 5818 Palentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Hijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016 Schaeffler, C

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